



Sunday School for all ages continues **through May 27** (Pentecost). Beginning June 3 there will be an adult class that continues through the summer, but there will not be classes for children and youth until the fall. That is not to say that there will be no

Christian Education for children and youth through the summer.

June 15-16 is **Vacation Church School**. Our theme is "Fruits of the Spirit" and we will have a wonderful puppet show provided by Grey Seal Puppets. Brenda Daly is the coordinator of VCS.

July 16-20 is **Camp Agape** at our church. See Misty Koehler for details. This is always a great day camp experience for our children and community.

I want to say **a very special thank you** to all who have committed to be in leadership in Sunday Church School this year. They have willingly given their time for study, preparation and teaching to help us as a church hold true to our baptismal vows to provide for the education of all in the faith. Thank you to the following for serving this year:

Pre-K: Carmen De Nicholas, Mark & Rebecca Yount
God's Eden: Brooke Martin, Lucy Mitchell, Maria Carr, Jo Singleton, Tonya Zander, Renee Carpenter, Marsha Kinley

Youth: Brenda Day, Eric Carpenter, Sonja Kreitzer, Carol Posey

Substitute as needed: Debbie Neagle for Youth and God's Eden

Seekers: Pastor Mike & Lynn Varn as well as various class members

Adult Bible Class: John Kreitzer, Greg Byrum and Tommy Causby

I know the fall seems like a long way off, but plans are already being made for the new church school year. Prayerfully consider your role in leadership and contact Beth Brittain or Brenda Daly if you are willing to serve your church and your God.
Shalom, Beth

Congratulations: We congratulate and commend **Kurt Scholler**, husband of Cynthia and dad of Stephanie and Eric, who has received the **Myconius Medal** this year, bestowed as the highest honor of Gotha, Germany. Their jury nominates candidates to the City Council for recognition. And they have recognized our Kurt, who many of us know from his overseeing involvement in the Sister City relationship between Gastonia and Gotha. He actually founded this municipal bond in the year after the Wall between West and East Germany came down. This year marks the 20th anniversary of that ratification.

A number of families of Holy Comforter housed and supported several groups of students, particularly musicians, who came to contribute to the events sponsored by the association. We remember these outstanding young people personally, as do our children vividly.

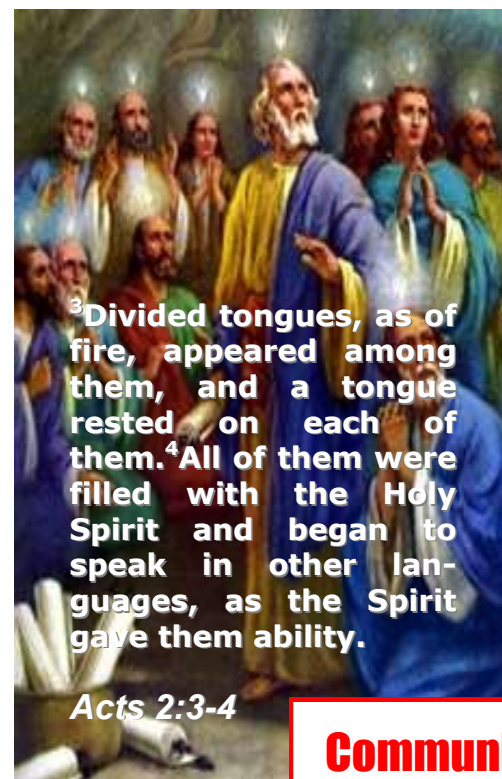
Kurt, who has recently retired from an international business career here in our county, is gratified that in those years of the cities' relationship, "many friendships between the two cities have been established, especially between students, for many of whom they had fundamental impact on their lives " beyond these two particular localities. He says, as we might expect of him, "this medal is not only an honor for me, but also a sign of appreciation that Gotha has for Gastonia."

An added historical note is that Friedrich Myconius (1490-1546) was converted as an ordained Catholic to Lutheranism in 1517. He took a leading part in all the religious disputations and conferences of the time, and was intimately connected in the reform crusade with Martin Luther. He was employed in the cause of the Reformation in Leipzig, and is remembered for his permanent work in Gotha in the founding and endowment of its gymnasium.

Holy Comforter Comment

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Dr. K. Michael Varn, Pastor
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education



Communion Opportunities For May



May 6 The 5th Sunday of Easter
May 27 The Day of Pentecost . . .



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Jane Deaton, Reporter
Volume 33, No. 5

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Office Hours Monday-Friday
8:30 am—3:00 pm



Hey, I am the one who is retiring from Holy Comforter. Since I announced my plans to retire in November, a lot of people have said to me that since you are retiring so am I! I appreciate any implicit loyalty to me in that. But don't you dare! None of us can really "retire" from our calling as Christians. It is part of our baptism. As John writes in his Gospel: ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.⁵I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become* my disciples.⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (John 15)

Every church needs its members to step up and respond to the Holy Spirit's call in us to do whatever it takes to keep Christ's church alive and vital. For the next 18 months or so this is exactly what Holy Comforter will need for you as committed members to do --- to support the church council, call committee, our various ministries with your service as burdensome or inconsequential as they may seem. As we leave Holy Comforter, Lynn and I will still serve and support the Church of Christ in whatever way we can.

As St. Paul writes: ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12)

Pax, Pastor Mike



Our new ladies church group "**Staying Connected**" recently made and served dinner to the residents of the Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte.

After eating the good ole' Southern Bar-B-Q

those staying at the house were treated to home-made fruit cobblers created by Natalie Hullander's mother-in-law, Lois. The ladies who prepared and served the meal are from left to right: Katie Kessen, Ashley Ange, Natalie Hullander, Lois Hullander, Mandi Kline and Misty Koehler.



Please place **Vacation Bible School** on your calendars for **2012**. Friday, June 15...**Meal**

is 6:00-6:30 pm...with stories, crafts and singing from 6:30-8:30 pm. Saturday, June 16... 9:00 am-12:00 Noon...stories, crafts and songs with the Grey Seal Puppet Virtue program at 10:00 -11:00 am.

Theme is: *Fruit of the Spirit.*

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Saturday, May 5 Golf Tournament for Zac

11:00 am Driving Range Open

12:30 pm Shotgun Start

Dinner & Awards after the Tournament

Sunday, May 6 5th Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Monday, May 7 Morning Circle

10:45 am Meet at HC to carpool to lunch

Sunday, May 13 6th Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Church Council meets after

Thursday, May 17 Isle of Palms Retreat begins

Saturday, May 19 Kids' Club

10:00 am Meet to

Sunday, May 20 7th Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Afternoon Isle of Palms Retreaters return

Sunday, May 27 The Day of Pentecost

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion & Confirmation

Pig Pickin' after the service

Thursday, May 31 Grizzlies Baseball Game Fundraiser for Zac

6:30 pm Gates Open

7:30 pm Game Starts

Sundays: 10:10 am Choir

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesdays: 2:30-4:30 pm Tutoring ends May 8

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	March	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$18,559.25	\$55,677.75
Actual Receipts:	19,087.13	51,296.49
Actual Expenses:	18,392.11	53,238.68
Gain for Month:	\$ 695.02	
Loss Year-to-Date:		<\$ 1,942.19>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye + the following:

May 6: Shelia Kelly

May 13-27: Karen Rogers

ACOLYTES: Cooper Burwell, Luke Via

CRUCIFERS: Elizabeth Burwell
Sam Thompson

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Louise Day, Co-Captain

Brenda Daly, Co-Captain

Courtney Gatlin

Becky Richards

Nancy Powell

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)

Cindy Buchanan

Jo Singleton

Shelia Kelly

Jack Tench

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

May 6: Tracey & Caroline Nault

May 27: Need Volunteers (Pentecost)

GREETERS:

May 6: Shirley Causby

May 13: Pat Long

May 20: Katie Kessen

May 27: Need Volunteer (Pentecost)

USHERS: Eric Carpenter + Volunteer/s

FLOWERS:

May 6: Jack & Laura Tench

Mark & Rebecca Yount

May 13: Bob & Denise Wiegand

Monique Estelle

May 20: Danny, Rochelle & Carson Potter

May 27: Cher Grant & Linda Grimsley

NOTE: All articles and information for the June newsletter are due to Dianne in the church office by May 21.



Birthstone: Emerald
Birth Flower: Lily of the Valley

- 1: 1st US postal card issued. 1873
- 1: "Buffalo Bill" Cody put on his first Wild West Show. 1883
- 4: French manufacturer debuts first folding umbrella (Paris France). 1715
- 6: John Deere makes first steel plow on this day in history. 1833
- 6: Linus Yale patents Yale-lock. 1851
- 6: Jefferson Davis approves a bill declaring War between US & Confederacy. 1861
- 7: Indiana Territory organized. 1800
- 7: George Eastman patents "Kodak box camera". 1888
- 10: Benjamin Franklin first tests the lightning rod. 1752
- 10: First Mother's Day observed. 1908
- 12: British troops occupy Charleston, South Carolina. 1780
- 12: First nonstop crossing of US via balloon (Maxie Anderson & son Chris). 1980
- 13: Helicopter makes its 1st cross-country flight. 1942
- 17: First merry-go-round seen at a fair (Philippapolis, Turkey). 1620
- 17: New York Stock Exchange formed by 24 merchants. 1792
- 20: Shoes were made for both right & left feet. 1310
- 20: History of cinema: The first public display of Thomas Edison's prototype kinetoscope. 1891
- 23: Scott Carpenter orbits Earth 3 times in US Aurora 7. 1962
- 25: Eyre M Shaw, 78, becomes oldest gold medalist in the Olympics. 1900
- 25: Launch of Skylab 2 mission, which was first U.S. manned orbiting space station. 1973
- 27: NYC fines George Willig 1¢ for each of 110 stories of the World Trade Center he climbed. 1977

MUSIC NEWS

Forty (40) members from Holy Comforter will be on annual retreat to Isle of Palms, May 17–20. This **23rd annual retreat** has been open to members of Holy Comforter since 1989.

The South Carolina Retreat Center is a beautiful facility which allows for groups to fully integrate for worship, fellowship, meals, and much more. We look forward to this experience again, and invite others to investigate use of this facility in the future.

Thanks to all of our church musicians for the many hours of involvement in music ministry. As always our service music was uplifting and inspiring during the Lenten and Easter seasons.

Our choirs will take a summer break from rehearsal soon, but **church choir members continue to meet on Sunday morning at 10:10** to prepare for their primary role of worship leadership.

Greg Cline



On Tuesday, April 24 the **old blower** from our church organ was **exchanged for a new one**. It took several hours to remove the old blower which was huge (and heavy). The new blower was about half the size of the old.

Thanks to **Bob Wiegand** and **Charles Mauney** who were on hand to help lift and tote both.



My first memories of Pastor Mike was when he came to Holy Comforter to replace Pastor Shelby who was retiring. I just wasn't very sure at that time that anyone could fill those shoes. But he did. And to this Lutheran, that was a tough job. I not only grew to love him but also to love his family too.

There are two qualities that stand out for me when you ask me about Pastor Mike. The first one is his love of children. Every child who has ever walked through the doors at Holy Comforter **"loves"** Pastor Mike. He has a way of reaching each and every one of them and that is a quality I admire so much.

The second thing that stands out for me is a quality that Pastor Mike has and that he has taught to me through the years is to "Judge not, lest ye be judged." I think that he has taught us how to be a loving and caring family of faith who sees people for who they truly are and loves them all.

I believe that he has helped Holy Comforter become a very loving and giving congregation. And, for that, I am truly thankful. Godspeed Pastor Mike. Holy Comforter has its work cut out for them to find one with your caliber. We love you!

Trudy Whitener

Among Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Twelve apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church."



The biblical narrative of Pentecost, where the 12 Disciples of Christ received the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room, is given in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. As recounted in Acts 2:1-6.

The liturgical celebrations of Pentecost in Western churches are as rich and varied as those in the East. The main sign of Pentecost in the West is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Priests or ministers & choirs wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well. Red banners are often hung from walls or ceilings to symbolize the blowing of the "mighty wind" and the free movement of the Spirit. They may depict symbols of the Holy Spirit, such as the dove or flames, symbols of the church such as Noah's Ark and the Pomegranate, or especially within Protestant churches of Reformed and Evangelical traditions, words rather than images naming for example, the gifts and Fruits of the Spirit. Red flowers at the altar/ preaching area, and red flowering plants such as geraniums around the church are also typical decorations for Pentecost services. These symbolize the renewal of life, the coming of the warmth of summer, and the growth of the church at and from the first Pentecost.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

May 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 May Day St. Philip and St. James, Apostles 2:30–4:30 pm Tutoring 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	2	3	4 1st folding umbrella debuts (Paris France). 1715	5 Golf Tournament To benefit Zac Hullander 11:00 am Driving Range 12:30 pm Shotgun Start
6 The 5th Sunday of Easter 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	7 Morning Circle 10:45 am Meet at the church to carpool to a restaurant.	8 National Teachers Day 2:30 pm Last Day of Tutoring 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	9	10	11	12 International Nurses Day 10:00 am KidsClub meets at Adventure Landing To play Putt Putt
13 The 6th Sunday of Easter 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Council after 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	14	15 National Chocolate Chip Day 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	16	17 Isle of Palms Retreat	18 Isle of Palms Retreat	19 Isle of Palms Retreat Armed Forces Day
20 The 7th Sunday of Easter 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 8:00 pm Nar-Anon Isle of Palms Retreaters Return	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 The Day of Pentecost 9:30am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion & Confirmation Pig Pickin' after 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31 The Visitation Grizzlies Baseball Game To benefit Zac Hullander 6:30 pm Gates Open 7:30 pm Game		

May 3 Sonja Kreitzer
 May 4 Henry Dowd
 Dariel Rogers
 May 7 Dianne Lail
 Alec Via
 Jean Wiegand
 May 10 Zac Hullander
 May 12 Jennifer Wiegand
 May 15 Patrick Braddy
 May 16 Sherry Perry
 May 20 Allison Wilson
 May 21 Natalie Hullander
 May 22 Billy Joye
 Chuck MacDonald
 May 23 Jennifer Miller
 May 24 Mandi Kline
 Perri Potter
 Denise Taylor
 May 25 Michael Jenkins
 William Kline
 May 27 Amy Dowd
 Amanda Dowd
 May 28 Jason Beasley
 Richard Fox
 Angie Koehler
 May 29 Daniel Dowd
 Angie Morton
 May 30 Jonathan Baker
 May 31 David Daly
 John Zander